



The Federal FOCUS

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Those who refuse to make New Year's resolutions because they always break them anyway miss the point. Making resolutions is a cleansing ritual of self-assessment and repentance that demands personal honesty and, ultimately, reinforces humility. Breaking them is part of the cycle."

Eric Zorn

About the Federal Focus

The Federal Focus of the Greater Columbus Chapter of the AGA is provided as a service to our members to keep them informed of events and news affecting our lives in the government accountability profession. Views expressed in articles are those of the author and may not necessarily represent the views of the chapter leadership. Article content is copyrighted to the author/source from which it was received.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ms. Nancy Zmyslinski, CGFM
Interim Chapter President

January is typically a time for making resolutions. January is a time to start anew; the year is just beginning and we are renewed in our resolve to change ourselves.

I would like to make some New Year Resolutions for our new chapter, the Greater Columbus Chapter. I want us as a chapter to focus on standing this chapter up and moving it forward. Cindy Cox mentioned during her November speech that we have the ability to reach Bronze status as a chapter. I want us to reach bronze status not for the sake of making the goal, but rather to make this a chapter committed to excellence. Bronze status will represent that we are committed to our chapter by increasing the financial management education of our members and improving our professionalism. It indicates we are determined to make the Greater Columbus Chapter an organization that is professional and dedicated to the principles of AGA.

I want us as members to resolve to ask at least one non-member to a monthly luncheon. AGA is a relatively unheard of professional organization within our workforce and our members are the best advertisement we have to increase our membership and thereby increase our goal of improving financial management through diversity of membership.

I would like everyone, members and non-members alike, to resolve to begin considering or begin preparing to obtain a professional certification. Having a professional certification helps strengthen your skills and knowledge as a professional financial manager. It announces to everyone that you are committed to improving yourself and that you understand the importance of having a professional certification.

Finally I want each of us to resolve to vote during the January officers' election. Just as in a national election, this is your chance to make your choice known. I thank everyone who has self-nominated themselves for a position and wish everyone good luck. We only have one chance to make our chapter's first year a great year, so let's make the most of it.

Nancy

INTERIM CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

NANCY ZMYSLINSKI

VICE PRESIDENT

LORI MIKESELL

Lori.Mikesell@DFAS.mil

SECRETARY

HEATHER DRAKE

Heather.Drake@DFAS.mil

TREASURER

JOHN YERKEY

John.Yerkey@DFAS.mil

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

HENRIANN FRANKLIN

HenriAnn.Franklin@DFAS.mil

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

KENNETH GEORGE

Kenneth.George@DFAS.mil

CHAPTER CALENDAR

13 Jan 2005 - January Luncheon

Speaker: Ben Roberts

Location: Columbus Room

Time: 11:30

Cost: \$10.00

Contact Officers for Tickets and Menu

13 Jan 2005 - Officer Elections Begin

25 Jan 2005 - Officer Elections End

10 Feb 2005 - February Luncheon

An AGA National Officer will be speaking and delivering the Chapter Charter and swearing in our new officers.

July 2005 - AGA National PDC
Orlando, Florida

NEW YEARS THOUGHTS

By Mr. Tom O'Brien, CMA, CGFM
Deputy Director of Accounting, DFAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2005 is looking like another year of major change for the Department of Defense when you look at the Federal Base Realignment and Closure commission finalizing their recommendation lists; DFAS Columbus being in the first group to use the National Security Personnel System (NSPS); increased rollout actions on the implementation of BSM and BSM Energy for our DLA customer to go along with major changes in software being used or developed by most of our other customers; and all of our customers implementing plans and actions to have success in achieving clean audit opinions. Change, in itself, affects each individual differently, but change does affect individual attitudes, trust levels, morale, and loyalty. It seems that each year, change keeps picking up speed. Before our organization can finish getting adjusted to one change, it gets hit with several others. We are living in a constant period of transition, and the shelf life of our solutions keeps getting shorter. We use to work in a change environment that gave us more room for recovery. There seemed to be enough space between major change events to allow us to catch our breath. Today, "what works" becomes history in a hurry. Change can increase job stress. Change has a way of bringing out the best in some people and the worst in others. Change scares a lot of people. Facing the unknown can raise your concerns. Now that I may have bummed you out this early in the New Year, let's focus on a few recommendations that I have on how to cope with change.

Many times we are caught in the environment of analyzing a situation to death. We weigh the facts, we consider options, we get organized, we develop a plan of attack, and then we take forever trying to debug the plan. Change, meanwhile, doesn't wait on our capability to develop the perfect plan. In the Lean 6 program, there are problems that require solutions, which are classified as "just do it!" My recommendation is to infuse this concept in our daily actions. Just keep moving. When we mess up, fix it. Learn from our mistakes, but press on. We need to create a culture of doing that will keep up in a world of constant change. One of the secrets of just doing is to simplify. We need to search for different solutions to problems, search for easier ones. If our organization expects us to do more with less, to do it better and quicker, our only hope is to find easier approaches.

Another approach to coping with change is to keep learning. Develop in new directions. Adapt. Don't get locked in a set of skills or an approach that could become outdated. DFAS offers many opportunities to develop your skills in both on

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TECH TALK

DOD IS DEVELOPING A ROADMAP FOR GETTING TO IPV6

By William Jackson
GCN Staff

Defense Department networks will have to demonstrate that they are capable of running securely and reliably under IP Version 6 before receiving approval to use the new protocols.

The deadline for moving to the new version of the Internet Protocol is 2008. Until then, IPv6 will be restricted to early adopter environments and will not be allowed on operational DOD networks. The DOD IPv6 Transition Office is developing guidelines to help networks get approval to operate.

Networks will receive authorizations to run at two levels before proceeding to the first level of operational capability, said James Schifalacqua, part of the Transition Office support team from SI International Inc. Information assurance will be a key element in receiving authorization to operate, Schifalacqua said Thursday at the U.S. IPv6 Summit in Reston, Va.

Developing a process for risk management will be the key element in getting authorization to operate with IPv6, he said.

"It's not the technology, it's the process," he said. Not all risk on the network has to be eliminated, but administrators must be able to document how risks are analyzed and managed.

Much of the process will be standard risk management, applied to IPv6, Schifalacqua said. Some elements will be specific to the features of the new protocols, such as mobile networking.

"Mobility has a lot of possible vulnerabilities," he said. "Most of them involve integrating and authentication."

The first level of authority to operate will be for isolated IPv6 enclaves that will not be sending packets to the outside. The rule of thumb for this level is "do no harm,"

Schifalacqua said. These enclaves must have the same basic information assurance features as an IPv4 network, including packet filtering, firewalls and network intrusion detection.

The next level of authentication will be for Version 6 enclaves that will communicate with other network elements. These will require more extensive information assurance features, including methods of mitigating risk in dual stacks running both IP versions 4 and 6 and for tunneling packets from one version through another.

The first level of operational capability, which must be reached by 2008, was described as parity with IPv4. The new version will be running, but with essentially the same capabilities as current IPv4 networks. Additional capabilities unique to IPv6 will be added in the second level of operational capabilities.

The Transition Office plans to offer help to networks in achieving authorization. Staff member Marty Beckman said the office is readying a testbed network that DOD agencies will be welcome to connect with. It will have DNS servers with dual stacks for both IPv4 and IPv6 for the ipv6.mil domain. It also will enable voice over IPv6.

The service will be free, but agencies will have to pay for their own connections to the node. The initial testbed core will be at Falls Church, Va. Plans call for extending it with cores at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, Peters Air Force Base in Colorado, and the Marine Corps base in San Diego.

The Transition Office also plans to establish an IPv6 training center for DOD and other government personnel, Beckman said. Cost is expected to be about \$250 per person for a week of instruction, he said.

For More See www.GCN.com

STATE DEPARTMENT DEFENDS U.S. AID FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

By Chris Strohm

The State Department on Thursday defended the U.S. government's effort to help earthquake and tsunami victims in Southeast Asia and said more assistance will be coming.

Nearly 120,000 people are estimated to have been killed by the earthquake and tidal waves that struck eight countries in Southeast Asia on Sunday. Officials worry, however, that the death toll will climb higher due to diseases that could spread in the aftermath and a lack of drinking water.

The U.S. government has pledged \$35 million in relief assistance. Total aid so far from the international community is estimated at \$250 million, with Spain the most generous by offering \$60 million.

Some have criticized the U.S. government, however, for not reacting faster and doing more. Indeed, Florida received more than \$3 billion in federal and state disaster aid for damage caused by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Those hurricanes caused 760 deaths.

Secretary of State Colin Powell visited the Washington embassies of some of the hardest-hit countries Thursday and pledged that more U.S. assistance is on its way.

"We are mobilizing all our assets to help. As you know, we made an initial infusion of money - some \$35 million - but we know that this is just the beginning of a much greater need and much more significant commitment from the United States," Powell said outside of the Indonesian Embassy. "This is an unprecedented tragedy. In my many years of government, I've never come across one this large."

The State Department has established a task force to coordinate relief efforts, headed by Marc Grossman, undersecretary of state for political affairs. "Everyone else in the United States government who has a role to play is

being pulled together in the task force," Powell said. "We're working very well together, and you will see a significant step-up in the flow of aid."

Powell said U.S. disaster assistance teams have been dispatched to Southeast Asia to make assessments. "There's nothing worse than sending resources to the wrong place," he added. "It costs money to move equipment, to move supplies. We want to make sure we're moving these things to the right place, and it takes a little bit of time."

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher rebuffed criticism that the U.S. government is not doing enough in response to the tsunamis. "The immediate response to this is massive, and it will become even bigger," he said.

Boucher said the United Nations estimates that an additional \$250 million in private donations is being provided to the region.

President Bush on Wednesday also announced that the United States is forming a coalition with India, Japan and Australia to coordinate relief efforts.

Boucher added that the Defense Department is providing assistance that is difficult to quantify. The Pentagon deployed the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and the USS Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group to the region. U.S. Pacific Command has set up a command center at Utapao, Thailand, where service members have established a joint task force to coordinate U.S. relief efforts.

U.S. Air Force C-130s and KC-135s from Japan and Guam also are being dispatched to ferry aid into and around the area, according to the American Forces Information Service. And the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force has sent humanitarian assistance assessment teams to the region.

"There's an awful lot being done with military assets," Boucher said.

For more see www.govexec.com



INFORMATION

CGFM Program Celebrates 10 Years of Success

When Jeffrey C. Steinhoff began planning for his 1993-1994 term as AGA National President, a new certification program was not on his priority list. Steinhoff, who is managing director of the Financial Management and Assurance Team at the Government Accountability Office, testified quite often before congressional committees at that time. One particular hearing stands out. "During the hearing, Senator James Sasser, the chairman, really asked a lot about my professional credentials and made a pretty big deal about me being a CPA, and that added a sense of greater reliability, and greater reliance on whatever I was saying," Steinhoff recalled. "I really didn't think those skills and that exam I passed quite some time before that was all that applicable to the issues I was discussing at the hearing."

Chairman Sasser had unknowingly planted a seed that would bloom into AGA's CGFM Program, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Steinhoff saw a strong need to recognize the "very rich portfolio of knowledge and skills" that are unique to government financial managers, who are dealing with complex issues that are quite different than those of the private sector.

Steinhoff looked at the many previous discussions and studies AGA had spearheaded on the subject. In 1992, a task force recommended dropping the idea, but he found the sentiment to be split nearly 50-50, so he began planning to introduce the concept to the National Executive Committee and AGA's chapters. Before he even started, though, he was warned by his colleagues at GAO that he already had a strong plan in place for his presidential term. They said he didn't need to take the risk of launching an initiative that was destined to be rejected by the membership. "I felt strongly that we were viewed as second-class citizens by some in the profession. We have special and unique skills and we shouldn't

be second to anyone," Steinhoff said. "There was really nothing that recognized government financial managers out there at all."

Steinhoff generated interest in the concept and received a broad mandate from the membership to pursue it. He introduced the program at the 1994 Professional Development Conference. He hoped 4,000 would apply for CGFM status during the initial certification period, when the CGFM was granted based on education and experience. "There were those who said I'd have trouble getting 500," he said. Then began the deluge of mailbags to the AGA National Office. More than 13,000 became certified.

Also, AGA's membership shot up by 7,000 over a few short years, and attendance at the annual PDC skyrocketed. The CGFM is considered AGA's most successful undertaking.

AGA's Professional Certification Board, which oversees the CGFM Program, developed a training program of three courses that help prepare CGFM candidates for the three examinations. The exams were computerized from the start, and the board has gone through the rigorous process of updating them to keep the material fresh and relevant to the issues financial managers face every day. Board members, who are experts in state and local government, federal accounting standards, the Yellow Book and more, have dedicated hundreds of hours of volunteer time to the CGFM Program. Many board members who serve today, including Steinhoff, helped develop the program 10 years ago.

Steinhoff is heartened by the growing list of governments that recognize the CGFM, but he also recognizes that establishing a new credential takes many years of effort at the grassroots level. The CGFM will become a more sought-after credential over time, as Steinhoff sees a future of continuing growth. "The CGFM is a mark of achievement, an indicator of excellence in our chosen field and it will only grow in value," Steinhoff said.

For more see www.agacgfm.org

and off duty training programs, and in e-learning courses that you fit into your schedule. Find out about these programs – ask. Our rapidly changing world requires new competencies, and the academic world often provides the most effective way to keep current.

My wife and I spent the holidays in Houston, Texas with kids and grandkids and I, once again, had to marvel at the ability of children to handle change. They enjoy it and take it in stride. In watching their actions, I am convinced that it is their nature to flex, to adapt. They readily bend, while grownups get set in their ways. Kids insist on variety. Change is what keeps them from getting sleepy. They crave surprises and seek novel experiences. They love to learn. They have fun with change. Maybe they are on to something. Maybe we need to consider the way of handling changing situations the way we did when we were just a few years old – with curiosity, rather than worry – quick to abandon any behavior in favor of more efficient new-found solutions – relentless in our determination to learn - not being trapped by old solutions but exploring for new ones.

Just some thoughts for the NEW YEAR.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

HEATHER DRAKE

Heather Drake has lived in the Columbus area since the summer of 1995. She recently completed her Bachelor's degree in Finance from the Ohio State University. She has been employed with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and recently made the transition into the ELFA (Entry Level Financial Analyst) program.

She's taken the initiative to further her education by taking additional Accounting courses at Franklin University with the objective of enhancing her analysis capabilities and to distinguish among the different accounting methods used within the Federal Government sector. Heather is also in the process of looking at various MBA programs. Her goal is to enroll by August/September '05.

Heather is a Charter Member of Greater Columbus Chapter of the AGA. She has been involved from the beginning with the Interim Chapter Leadership and is currently serving as the Interim Chapter Secretary. She plans to maintain her activity in the AGA and has a goal to earn her CGFM.

But I Digress

Every year it is customary to make personal resolutions. Some of us resolve to lose weight, exercise more, spend more time with family, further our education, etc. Most resolutions are targeted at self-improvement and yet many people every year feel they have failed to keep their resolution and therefore berate themselves for their failure. I always seem to fail to keep my resolutions and often wonder what is the purpose in making these resolutions.

A while back there was a report indicating that those who try to lose weight and fail are better off than those who do not try to lose weight. This of course assumes that the dieter doesn't participate in yo-yo dieting but in a balanced weight loss plan.

What is my point you may ask? The point is that perhaps the achievement of a goal, while important and personally rewarding, is just as important as striving to reach a goal or keep a resolution. It is the journey and not the destination that makes us all better individuals. It's not the purchase of a home that helps us, but the concerted effort to save funds, determine the balance between needs and wants, and the enduring the trying times that make us feel successful when we finally close on that new home.

As for my resolution for this year, I resolve to be more optimistic about my ability to keep my resolutions and not to discount my efforts to enjoy the journey. But I digress.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CORNER

BIZWORLD FOUNDATION

What We Do

The BizWorld Foundation is a national not-for-profit organization that provides curricula activities for 3rd through 8th grade students. BizWorld programs add relevancy to academics by teaching entrepreneurship and business concepts in a real world context. BizWorld provides students with the knowledge, skills and awareness they need to establish a foundation for a future of financial responsibility and economic independence. BizWorld programs inspire children, by instilling in them the realization that they too can become the next successful entrepreneur or top CEO.

The BizWorld Foundation vision is an economically literate society, in which all individuals become engaged citizens, motivated to pursue their dreams. By encouraging innovation and ambition, BizWorld is bridging the gap between academics and the real world.

What We Offer

The BizWorld Program is a math and entrepreneurship curriculum designed for use by teachers in 3rd through 8th grade classrooms. Students play the roles of presidents and vice presidents of friendship bracelet companies to experience starting and running a business. In eight hours of classroom time, students design, manufacture, market and sell their products, and analyze daily financial statements. At the end, each company is valued to determine a "winning" BizWorld team.

What We Need

The BizWorld Foundation wants to ensure that all educators are able to get the resources they need in the classroom. The Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization and donations to the BizWorld Foundation help us improve financial education for all.

For more information see: www.bizworld.org

CEC MINUTES

DECEMBER 15, 2004

- Discussed potential speakers for each of the monthly luncheons up through November
 - January speaker: Benedict Roberts
 - February: Federal Agency (other than DoD) regarding NSPS
 - Potential Luncheon Speakers (skip July)
 1. Deloitte
 2. Bearing Point
 3. AICPA
 4. KPMG
 5. Col. Boggs
 6. Col Roberts
 7. Patriot Systems
 8. OSU/Franklin University
- Luncheons will be planned for the 2nd Thursday of each month
- Discussed which Senior Managers to ask to contribute newsletter articles
- Chapter Elections close at COB January 25, 2005
 - Each of the nominees will be required to give a 2-3 minute bio at the January luncheon
 - Those not elected may still be chosen to serve as a chair member
- Revisions to the Chapter Newsletter
 - May need to re-word "cgfm" column. Perhaps "Human Capital Strategy" or something with academics or education.
 - The following is a list of new columns to add:
 1. CEC Minutes
 2. Tech Talk ~ Insights on true technology (i.e. WOS, EDF, new systems, etc.)
 3. Meeting Re-Cap
 4. Member Spotlight
- Consensus was made that only 3 candidates are allowed per position.
 - Additional Officer positions: Executive Counsel – will include 4 or 5 people who were past officers/established members to help maintain tradition and history and map out the future.

EVENT RECAP

REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The Central Ohio Chapter along with help of the Greater Columbus Chapter hosted a Professional Development Conference 6-8 December 2004.

Those who attended the conference tended to agree that the conference was a very valuable experience. The conference was very informative and educational. Attendees had the opportunity to hear Col. Al Runnels (Retired) share his experiences while serving with the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq.

Other speakers included:

Nancy Zmyslinski - Director, Accounting Services, Defense Agencies

Bobby Derrick - National AGA President

Paul Kinney - Assistant Director GAO, Denver Field Office

Ron Tollefson - Office of the Secretary of Defense

And many others.

Please plan on joining the next Regional PDC next December.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

10 January 2005
Central Ohio Chapter CPE Luncheon
Advanced Excel Tips and Tricks

14 February 2005
Central Ohio Chapter Education Event
Four Hour Educational Event

For more see www.centralohioaga.org

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

CANDIDATES

President

Nancy Zmyslinski

President-Elect

Mickey Geslak

Lori Mikesell

Roger Neefe

Treasurer

HenriAnn Franklin

Mark Wilkerson

John Yerkey

Secretary

Justin Ahmann

Heather Drake

ELECTION INFORMATION

- Officer candidates will introduce themselves at the beginning of the January Luncheon
- Polls will open on 13 January 2005 at the close of the luncheon
- Polls close 25 January 2005 at 5:00pm
- All members on record as of 13 January 2005 will be issued a ballot
 - If you have not turned in your membership application and desire to vote, turn your application into an officer by COB 13 January 2005 to insure you are on record as a member
- Ballots will be issued to all members present at the January Luncheon
 - An officer will deliver a ballot to all members who did not attend the luncheon
- Ballots should be placed in the box outside of Nancy's office (Bldg. 21, 7B-201)
- Election results will be formally announced in the February Newsletter

THE BOTTOM LINE

Health Savings Accounts

By Mr. Jason Carney

Over the last several years, health insurance costs have skyrocketed. Historically, health care costs in the United States have increased at a rate several times the rate of inflation. According to American College, in the last two years alone, health insurance costs per person have increased by over 13%. Years of increases in health care costs have created a health care crisis.

Many Americans can no longer afford health insurance coverage. At the same time employers, the traditional health insurance providers in the United States, are having a more difficult time providing coverage to their employees. As a result, a record number of Americans are uninsured. The most recent statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau place the number of uninsured Americans at more than 40 million.

Recently Congress passed a new provision in the tax code. It allows Americans to pay for most medical care tax-free, while enjoying lower health insurance premiums. Hopefully, this will make health insurance more accessible to Americans and allow them to increase the amount of money that they can defer from taxation.

The new Health Savings Account has two components: a high deductible health plan component and a health savings plan component. The high deductible health plan component of the HSA is a health insurance plan that must meet certain IRS tax requirements. The most significant of these is that the plan must have a sufficiently large deductible. For 2004, those deductibles are 1,000 for individuals and 2,000 for families.

Although a higher deductible will expose consumers to more risk for their health insurance costs, it also creates much lower premiums. For example, GEHA, a popular insurer of federal employees, offers its "Health Savings Advantage" plan, an HSA compatible health plan. Self-only coverage costs roughly

\$90/month. However, \$60 of the \$90 is transferred to your health savings account and can be used for medical expenses.

The second component of the (HSA), and probably the most important, is the savings component. The savings component allows a portion of premiums paid to be "passed-through" to a savings account. These savings can be invested in any manner of things, from money market savings accounts to brokerage-style equity accounts. All of the money passed through to the savings accounts are contributed free of tax up to the deductible of the health plan or \$2,650 for individuals or \$5,250 for families. Contributions roll over from year to year but must be used for "qualified medical expenses."

Qualified medical expenses include most medical procedures, prescription medication and even some over-the-counter drugs. Any payments not made on these expenses are subject to taxation and a 10% penalty.

Another interesting characteristic of the HSA is that at age 65, all contributions that are made to it can be withdrawn without penalty, but are taxed. However, the money invested in the HSA grows tax-free.

The new Health Savings Accounts clearly have a number of advantages and interesting features, but they might not be for everybody. People that spend a large amount of money on medical care and are currently covered may not benefit. However, they do provide great tax advantages and can lower premiums for those that may be over-insured or cannot afford a traditional health insurance package.

For further information:

IRS web site for HSA's:

<http://www.irs.gov/publications/p969/ix01.html>

U.S. Department of the Treasury's HSA site:

<http://www.treas.gov/offices/public-affairs/hsa/about.html>

OPM HSA web site: <http://www.opm.gov/hsa/>

ELECTION ADDENDUM

Below are the Bios for the candidates for the various offices. Please review their Bios and attend the luncheon so that an informed decision can be made.

PRESIDENT

NANCY ZMYSLINSKI

Nancy Zmyslinski is the Director, Accounting Services, Defense Agencies. As the director, she serves as Client Executive for Defense Agencies and is responsible for financial management and accounting services to the Department of Defense and over 30 other DoD agencies and activities. She is responsible for the accounting of more than \$400 billion annually.

Zmyslinski also serves as the DFAS Columbus central site director. As such, she is responsible for the day-to-day operation of a modern, \$80 million complex where more than 2,200 employees pay the bills and perform accounting functions for the Department of Defense.

Ms. Zmyslinski has been with the federal government since 1980 and previously served as Director and Deputy Director of Accounting Services for DFAS Columbus. Prior to that she was the first project officer of the Chief Financial Officer's Act Compliance Project Office, Director of Executive Support and Director of Accounting at DFAS Columbus.

Other federal service includes positions as a management analyst and accountant from 1980 to 1983 at the Defense Depot, Memphis, Tenn, and 1983 to 1988 at the Defense Construction Supply Center, Columbus, Ohio.

Ms. Zmyslinski is a Certified Government Financial Manager and a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers, a past president of the ASMC Buckeye Chapter and the Association of Government Accountants.

She majored in accounting at the University of North Dakota and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

MICKEY GESLAK

Mickey Geslak, CGFM, currently is an accountant in Accounting Operations where he is working on various eBiz issues. He started his federal government career at DFAS-Cleveland as an accounting intern in the first DFAS Intern Class. Mickey was the first intern selected for a special assignment at DFAS Headquarters. While at DFAS-Cleveland, he served in a number of accounting positions ranging from producing Major Claimant reports for various Navy Commands to working various system issues as a Systems Accountant in the STARS Directorate. He first came to DFAS-Columbus as the implementation officer for DPPS.

Mickey was one of the founding members of the AGA Chapter established at DFAS-Cleveland. He served as the chapter's first treasurer. At DFAS-Columbus, he served as the ASMC Ways and Means Co-Chair and started the fundraising activity of selling the Entertainment Books.

Mickey has a BBA from Ohio University, graduating Summa Cum Laude, with a major in Accounting and a MBA from Indiana University with a major in Finance.

PRESIDENT-ELECT (cont)

LORI MIKESSELL

Lori Mikesell is currently serving as the NSPS Implementation Project Officer for DFAS Columbus. She is permanently assigned as the Accounting Services, Defense Agencies, Executive Assistant. As such she serves as the principal advisor to the Director, Accounting Services, Defense Agencies and Central Site Director assisting in the support of over 30 Defense Agencies and the management of the Columbus site. She has served as the Executive Assistant since September 2000.

Lori Mikesell began her federal career at Wright Patterson AFB (WPAFB) in 1981 as a Junior Fellowship Accountant Intern. She served as an Operating Accountant at Wright Patterson AFB before accepting a promotion at Gunter AFB, Montgomery, AL. She served as a Systems Accountant for the Air Force servicing every Air Force location worldwide. She led teams comprised of Accountants and Programmers in the development and implementation of system enhancements in addition of providing day to day system support.

Mikesell joined the DFAS Columbus team in 1993 as a Staff Accountant. She has completed many projects and served as project lead for many projects since arriving at Columbus. She created and managed an accounting team to resolve MOCAS TBO rejects and was instrumental in establishing an accounting liaison office within MOCAS. Ms. Mikesell completed the Career Learning Center study that saved the agency over \$1 million dollars in the first year of implementation.

Mikesell has served in management roles throughout her 23-year career. She lead an accounting team comprised of military and civilians at WPAFB, managing the accounts payable and receivables for base level activities. She implemented a new accounts payable system for the Air Force and WPAFB.

Mikesell served as a supervisor of the Accounting Support Branch acting as the chief advisor to the Accounting Director. She managed a diverse workforce that performed the duties ranging from performance metric creation and analysis to supplies and the file room.

Mikesell is a member of the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter and the Buckeye ASMC Chapter. She has been instrumental in the creation of the Greater Columbus AGA Chapter, serving as interim Vice President for the chapter. She worked with a core team to establish the new chapter and served on the Education Committee of the recent Regional PDC held in December 2004. Mikesell completed her undergraduate studies in Accounting at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio and her graduate studies in Human Resources Management at Troy State University, Montgomery, AL.

Mikesell has a vision for the new chapter. As President-Elect it is her job to manage the point recognition program. The chapter is currently on target to reach Bronze status in its first year and Mikesell will work to achieve Platinum status in 2006.

ROGER H. NEEFE

Roger Neefe is the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Client Executive Representative for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the Defense Human Resources Activity. He serves as their liaison and advocate for the service they receive from all DFAS Business Lines.

Roger transferred to the Columbus Center in 1990 and has served as the Chief of Defense Logistics Agency Accounting; Chief Technical Support Division for Stock Fund Accounting and Payments; Chief Program Support Division, MOCAS; and Deputy Director of several Contract Administration Services Payment directorates.

Prior to working in Columbus, Roger worked at the US Army Finance and Accounting Center at Fort Benjamin Harrison (now DFAS Indianapolis) and as an Auditor In Charge with the US Army Audit Agency. He served five years in the United States Army as a Finance Corps Officer, and retired from the US Army Reserves after 24 years of service.

In Indianapolis he served as the President Elect of the AGA Chapter before moving to Columbus and was active in their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. He has assisted with the start up of the Greater Columbus Federal Chapter by serving on the 2004 AGA Education Committee and coordinating speakers for the 2004 Professional Development Conference.

Roger has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, is a Certified Public Accountant, and a Certified Government Financial Manager. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Ohio Society of CPA's, and the American Society of Military Comptrollers. His wife Jan and he have two daughters and one wonderful granddaughter!

TREASURER

HENRIANN V. FRANKLIN

HenriAnn Franklin, is a Financial Management Analyst with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). She assists in the administering and executing the directorates financial management (workload, manpower, and budget) programs for the Commercial Pay Business line (CPBL). She has facilitated the installation of new systems resolving communication and system problems. She has also served as the e-Biz Phase II Team Captain for the CPBL providing expertise in the areas of Human Resources, Resource Management, Analysis, and Accounting.

HenriAnn has been an active member of AGA since 1997. She is a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM). She has served on the Education Committee with Central Ohio Chapter. She helped establish the Greater Columbus Chapter of the AGA and a charter member. She has been involved with the interim Chapter Leadership since inception. Currently, she is serving as the Program Chairperson.

HenriAnn has a BA in Economics from the Ohio State University and a MSA in General Administration from Central Michigan University.

JOHN W. YERKEY II

John began his work in the federal government July 1, 2003 after earning his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree at Ohio State University. John was able to earn his accounting degree by spending eight years going to school part time while continuing to work full time in the printing industry and was still able to graduate cum laude. During the year and a half John has been at DFAS he has been part of the Entry Level Professional Accountant (ELPA) program which has allowed him to gain a broad understanding of the work that DFAS does and the customers the agency serves. During John's time at DFAS he has worked in accounting operations, internal review, CFO office, and has recently started a rotation in the business office. Each of the areas in which he has worked has provided him opportunities to work hard and learn about DFAS. John has also passed the Certified Defense Financial Manager (CDFM) exam, contributed to the education committee of the Buckeye chapter of American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC), taken on a significant role in forming our new chapter of the Association of Government Accountants, and began working to obtain a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree at Franklin University. As the treasurer of the new AGA chapter John plans to continue to help submit the documentation to obtain the non-profit status for the chapter. John will continue to help establish banking and accounting procedures for he new chapter.

DUE TO ILLNESS AND ANNUAL LEAVE MARK WILKERSON'S BIO WAS UNAVAILABLE. IT WILL BE EMAILED TO ALL MEMBERS AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

SECRETARY

JUSTIN AHMANN

Justin Ahmann is an accountant in the Entry Level Professional Accountant (ELPA) program at Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). Justin has worked at DFAS for seven months, plus three months as a student intern. He is currently working in the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) accounting branch. He has worked on disbursement and payroll interface violations, and has been most recently working on Fund Balance With Treasury of the DCMA appropriation as an ePortal project. Justin spent three months in Arlington working on an Internal Review (IR) Risk Assessment special project. He developed an additional DFAS risk assessment area to IR's Audit Tracking Database, and also created an FY05 Audit Plan for IR. His three months as a student intern were spent working in the DFAS accounting branch.

Justin graduated from the University of North Dakota (UND) in Grand Forks in May 2004. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor's of Accountancy. While attending UND, Justin was very active in several organizations. He was the Treasurer of student government at UND. He then became the Treasurer of the North Dakota Student Association, a student lobbyist organization. Justin was co-chair of the Recreation Committee at UND for one year, a committee that was set up to revamp the intramural program. He was also the co-chair of the Wellness Building Committee. This committee was formed to plan the building of a wellness center on the UND campus. He enjoys playing and watching sports, and watching movies or spending time with friends in his free time.

HEATHER DRAKE

Heather Drake is a Financial Management Analyst in the ELFA (Entry-Level Financial Management) program at the Defense Finance and Accounting Services. Heather began her career with DFAS as a student intern in June 2003 and has set herself to high standards by balancing a full-time job, a full-time college career, and being a full-time mom. In December '04, she completed her Bachelor's degree in Finance from the Ohio State University and has since started taking additional Accounting courses at Franklin University with the objective of enhancing her analysis capabilities and to distinguish among the different accounting methods used within the Federal Government sector. Heather aspires to continue her education by pursuing a Masters degree by the start of Fall 2005.

With Heather's ambition and self-determination, she is well on her way to becoming a successful leader. She has shown initiative by developing the "Creative Ideas" program for DFAS Columbus, working several issues with e-Biz and Developmental Assignments, and providing various reports and analysis for the Commercial Pay Business Line. She recently become an active member of the AGA Greater Columbus Chapter and has been involved with the Interim Chapter Leadership since its inception. She currently serves as the Interim Chapter Secretary and plans to maintain her activity in the AGA with the goal of earning her CGFM.

With Heather's can do attitude and great personality, she is able to hold herself to the highest standards. Her vision towards the future enables her to move forward and thrive as a leader. She is willing to help out wherever needed and whatever the cause.